A Newspaper Denoted to the Welfare of All Workers by Hand or Brain

# Official Organ of THE FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Vol. I — No. 23

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 6th, 1919

### A Plan To Offset Breaches Of Contract

strengthening ployee we are not speaking offi- be under the control of the of. has been guilty of a breach of cially. Our aim in bringing it ficers of the Trades Union Con- contract. The trade unionists forward is to invite discussion gress. Likewise the employers will employ their own attorney, which will probably disclose should provide a fund of a si- and the Manufacturers' Assoits good and its bad points.

In the interest of constructive progress it is evident to all that a contract between the employer and employee must be binding upon both parties. It is absolutely senseless to develop, agitate or create movements to effect contracts which will stabilize industrial conditions unless those contracts be enforced, as they are the very foundation of successful co-operation or business transaction between employer or employee as expressed through unions. Our honest opinion is that agreements are more frequently broken by the employer than by the employee. Yet we admit that there should never be a breach of contract by either party. We have already considered at length the proposition of incorporating the unions, and we have given the reasons why this plan is impracticable.

plan for nion should raise a fund,

milar amount, through the Ma-ciation will also engage coun nufacturers' Association, which sel of its own. In the event of

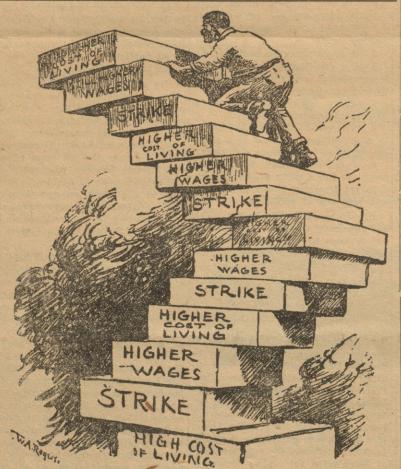
The government will then apcontracts through the medium of a per point a special court to deterbetween employer and em- capita assessment, which would mine which of the two parties

should be under the control of breach of contract resulting in the officers of the said associa- a strike the aggrieved party, through the court, would be awarded damages for losses incurred through the breach of contract. If the manufacturer was successful before the court he would be awarded damages based upon the loss of profits during the period of the strike. On the contrary, if the trade unionist is proven innocent of a breach of contract, then he would receive payment equal to the loss in wages during the

> Briefly, the effects would be these: A young industrial estab-'i hment could not be wrecked through labor troubles so long as it lived up to its contract with labor. Also it would be re-imbursed financially for losses incurred through breach of contract. Neither would the trade unionist be ruined in case an employer chose to break his contract, because the court would award to the trade unionist a sum equal to the wages lost by the worker during the period of the strike.

period of the strike.

We will not go into the endless ramifications, or details, provided by this plan unless there is discussion on it, in which event we will elaborate it in all its phases in an effort to prove the beneficient influences of this plan. For the time being we offer it for your criticism. It is of vital importance to the Dominion, to the industries and the workers of the Dominion. We submit it as constructive legislation would prove to be of great value to all Canadian citizens.



We believe that we have evolved a plan which is practical and which would prove to be acceptable to both capital and labor. We propose that the trades unionists in the Domi-

# THE PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

NO political idea has made such 114 to 107, if the seats had been proheadway in recent years in Can- portioned to votes cast. ada as the principle of proportional no means a new idea as things go; it was first propounded and worked out by a certain John Hare in England in the middle of last century and had the endorsation of John Stuart Mill. But the ruling classes and the official only gained one quarter as many seats. party machines regarded it as a dangerous innovation and likely to destroy their supremacy, and whenever proposals were advanced for its adoption they were quietly shelved. Reformers concentrated their efforts on securing the fullest extension of the franchise bothered very little about the machinery for exercising it once the ballot was secured.

But when in Great Britain and the Dominions a decently democratic franchise failed to open up the Utopia which was hoped for, the friends progress began to examine the workings of the machinery of elections which were held everywhere by the method of the single non-transferable vote and single or double member constitutencies. Many of them reached the conclusion that this electoral system produced Parliaments not truly representative of the voters.

In Britain the Liberal and Conservative parties in turn had majorities in Parliament well exceeding 100, when their popular majority was infinitesmal and would have not entitled them to an excess of more than 20 in the House of Commons. At one election, 1886, the Conservatives actually had a majority of 120 in the House, but were in a minority by actual votes polled.

In Canada similar discrepancies prevailed. In the Federal election of 1908, there were elected 134 Liberals and 87 Tories. If the seats had been apportioned according to votes cast there would have been 113 Liberals and 108 Tories in that Parliament.

It has always been understood that Sir Robert Borden won an overwhelming victory at the reciprocity election 1911 when he secured a majority of 48 in the House; but his majority would have been only a bare seven,

At the 1918 election in Great Brit

representation for elections. It is by ain the Labor party polled 2,292,102 votes and captured 59 seats; under a system of proportional prepredentation they would have secured 120. The Asquith Liberal polled 50% more votes than the Coalition Liberals, but

> At the 1917 election in Canada Sir Wilfrid Laurier had only two followers west of the Lakes, but the amount his vote entitled him to at least dozen, and the Unionists, on the other hand, were entitled to thrice as many as the three they held in Que-The anomalies and injustices of the existing electoral system are therefore obvious and have been adequately summarized as follows:-

> 1.—Majorities and minorities in our legislatures are not in proportion to the voting strength in the country.

2.-Minorities are constantly disfranchised.

3.—In many constituencies minority is permanently disfranchised. 4.—A minority of the electorate may secure a majority of the seats.

5.—A small turnover of votes has an effect out of all proportion to its number.

6.—A slight alteration in the boundary of a constituency may alter its representation, and gerrymandering is thereby encouraged.

7.—Party machinery is unfortunate control in politics.

8.—The venal minority which exists in all constituencies is put in a strategic position to influence elections.

9.—Independent men who cannot accept in full a party programme are debarred from any chance of election and kept out of public life.

10.—In many constitutencies which are hopelessly one-sided the minority voters cease to take any interest in politics.

Here in Canada the old party machines have effectually kept Labor from securing any but farcical Parliamentary representation and the first result was a dispiriting and deadening effect upon the politics, of the industrial workers. The sceond has been an evergrowing tendency to despise Parliamentary and turn to direct action; nothing is surer than that if there had been a dozen good Labor members in the House at Ottawa, the Winnipeg strike would not have occurred and the One Big Union idea would have gained less foothold. Lack of Parliamentary representation at Washington for similar reasons is responsible for the often violent courses of American Labor.

It was a knowledge of these evils in our representative system that brought a body of farseeing public men of all parties in Britain to form in the early nions it has been used in Tasmanian years of the century the Proportional

among its members men of such divergent political views as the late Lord Grey, Lord Courtney, Lord Robert Lord Birkenhead, Lord Bryce, Sir John Simon, Sir Alfred Mond, Mr. Philip Snowden and Mr. Robert Smillie, and conducted continual propaganda in favor of the idea.

When the last Franchise Reform Bill was framed up by a joint Committee of all the British parties in 1918, a recommendation was inserted in favor of proportional representation. But when the Bill came before the House of Commons the P. R. clauses met with fierce resistance from the party stalwarts on both sides. The House of Lords favored it and eventually it was suggested by way of compromise to make P. R. apply to 100 seats. But even this was obnoxious to the party machines, and in the end, to prevent the whole bill being lost the P. R. provisions were dropped except that they were made to apply to the dozen special University seats. In 1918 the elections for these seats were held by P. R. methods with excellent results

Proportional representation has been in operation for periods of varying length in widely scattered coun-As far back as 1855, it was used in the elections of the Danish Upper House. Belgium introduced it in 1900 and M. Lorand, a well known democratic leader, recently spoke of it thus: "We have used it for 18 years and we have had 6 general elections under the new system and the result is that not a single party or fraction of a party is opposed to the reform; its extension is part of the programme of all parties.

Sweden adopted it in 1909 and one of its results there has been to improve the situation of the democratic Mr. Branting, the wellparties. known Socialist leader, gives evidence which should be carefully noted by parties who propose at the next election to invade the preserves of our two historic factions, when he says: "Whenever a party has to fight its way to the front among others of older standing that are powerful and well-organized, it can only come by its due by the aid of the system of proportional voting."

The new German Republic held its first election by proportional representation. The Socialist and Democratic groups had an easy majority. but in this case P. R. prevented the conservative parties from being left with the scantiest of membership in the Reichstag. P. R. does not always operate in favor of democracy, and distinguished Conservatives in Britain like Lord Selbourne and the late Sir Mark Sykes implored their party, who were in the main hostile to it, to reconsider their decision, lest at future elections, when the Labor Party gathered strength, the party of wealth and property be left with hopelessly inadequate representation, as it may well be at the next general contest. It has found great favor with many leaders in French politics, including President Poincaré, and may soon be adopted there. In the British Domielections for a considerable period and Representation Society. It included also in the choice of the Upper House

of the South African Parliament, whom the provincial legislatures choose by P. R.

When so many countries have already adopted the system with satisfactory results and there is widespread testimony available as to the improvement it brings to the working democratic institutions, its possi bilities are worthy of investigation for Canada where democracy has so often set forth on a career of reform with bright hopes and completely missed the mark.

The first question in such investiga-tion will be what is P. R. It may be defined as an electoral system which enables the membership of any body elected under it to reflect accurately the proportion of votes polled by the various parties who nominated can-The next inquiry will be: how is P. R. worked in practice? The first step is the creation of constituercies returning at least three and not more than six members. The reason should be obvious: under the present system of one member constituencies one party or body of electors inevitably captures the representation to the exclusion of the others.

In regard to the actual voting, several methods are propounded by different schools, but the most generally accepted is that of the single transferable vote. By this system each elector is asked to record his vote by placing a 1 opposite the name of the candidate he prefers above all others (there may be 10 or more candidates of varying brands) and he is also requested to show his further preferences by putting the figures 2, 3, 4, etc., opposite the names of other candidates in the order in which he prefers them.

In the absence of the transferable vote the favorite candidate would probably be certain to secure election, but the votes exceeding the number required for his election would be ineffective. The transferable vote plan provides that all votes received by a candidate over his necessary quota shall be transferred to the second choice indicated on these ballots and thus exercise a real influence in exnecessary quota his surplus is allocated between the survivors.



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pressing the popular will. When a which had the largest. Yet he had second candidate is found to have the

taken to have voted for Sir. R. Borden, Mr. Mackenzie King, Mr. Crerar, ber constituency in our rural regious Mr. Tom Moore and Mr. Robert Rothat i fany candidate can secure 4001 has secured 5000 votes, Mr. King 3,-800, Mr. Crerar 2000, Mr. Moore 1000 and Mr. Robers 200. Sir Robert has a surplus of 1000 votes or one-fifth of his total poll which he does not need. His 5000 ballots are all examined for their second preference and it is found that of these 2000 have marked Mr. 2000 second prefernce for Mr. King are divide dby five because Sir Robert can spare one-fifth of his votes and Mr. King has 400 votes added to his total which gives him an excess of the necessary quota of 4001. This does no injustice to Sir Robert, but it enables the 100 Oelectors whose votes their will in the election. The process adopted in regard to Sir Robert's votes is then repeated to discover the third preferences which are allocated in the same way and Mr. Crerar will probably be found to have a clear majority on the third preferences. In this way every quota of votes elects a representative and each elector has a real voice in the selection of a mem-

The one objection to proportional representation on which special stress is laid is that, as the popular majorities in elections are usually small, if truly reflected in Parliament, they will not supply the Government with a decent working majority. But this is not an unmixed evil - governments have in late years assumed too many powers because they had absolutely safe majorities. Small majorities to exercise great influence and Cabinets will walk more warily.

Mr. Asquith in a debate on P. R. gave interesting testimony in this connection. He said he had been a member of a Government from 1892-95 which had the smallest majority for years, only 40, and he had also been a member of 1906 Liberal Government,

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no hesitation in saying that the posi The method of transference can tion of the Cabinet in the former case best be illustrated by an imaginary was much more comfortable and their contest in which 12,000 voters may be party was more efficient. It may be objected in Canada that a three-memwould be unworkably large, and no one gers for three seats. It is obvious man could undertake to contest it and make himself known to all electors. votes he must be elected. The first There is some force in this contention count reveals that Sir Rober Borden and it would perhaps be preferable to make a beginning with urban and closely settled areas. This objection could not apply to the introduction of P. R. to the following areas, each to elect three members: 1. Halifax district; 2. Prince Edward Island; 3. Montreal areas (three or four in number); 4. Ottawa City and Carleton County, 5. Toronto (2) King No. 2, 1800 Mr. Crerar, 1100 ton County; 5. Toronto (3 areas); Mr. Moore and 100 Mr. Rogers. The 6. Hamilton and Wentworth County; 7. Winnipeg; 8. Calgary and Bow River; 9. Vancouver City. If it succeeded there, as it could not fail to, it could be extended gradually till only the constitutencies where settlement was very sparse would be left under the old single member system.

Canada owes its introduction to the were not needed by him to express idea of P. R. to the late Earl Grey who was a perfect fanatic on the subject and believed P. R. to be the sovereign remedy for all the ills of democracy. At his instigation a Canadian P. R. Society was founded with an influential executive containing such well-known names as the Speaker (Mr. E. N. Rhodes), Mr. C. A. Magrath and Dr. J. W. Robertson, and its members labored hard to spread abroad their ideas. The Ottawa Citizen has been a constant supporter of P. R. in the press, and the Manitoba Free Press has also favored it.

Mr. (now Senator) J. G. Turriff moved a resolution in the House a few years ago suggesting its adoption, but it received little support. Now a volume of powerful support for P. R. is coming together on all sides. The Canadian Council of Agriculture have made it part of their platform. The will enable the able independent men Great War Veterans Association have endorsed it as has the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association. The Labor party favor it and the report of the Mathers Commission on Industrial problems recommended that its possibilities for Canada be explored.

Sir Robert Borden has therefore asked the Speaker to appoint a Committee of the House to make a report as to whether the P. R. principle can be advantageously introduced in Canadian elections. If they report in its favor, a beginning may be made in the forthcoming Franchise Bill.

But the province of Manitoba is evidently satisfied of the feasibility of P. R., for it was recently announced that the local Cabinet intended to divide Winnipeg in two large six mem-ber constituencies and elect their M.P.P.'s by P. R. at the next election.

Evidently, therefore, the idea is making rapid progress in Canada, but those who believe in its soundness must keep up their campaign of pres sure and education and not rest content till Proportional Representation is a permanent principle in our electoral contests wherever possible.

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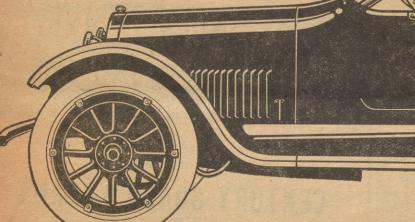
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### TRADES COUNCIL ISSUES MANIFESTO

Metal Trades of Toronto In Appeal To Workers Declare That Labor Knows No Defeat.

cil in this city has issued a call to all and now what strong arm repression workingmen, to remedy their griev- of economic or political organizaances at the polls in the forthcoming municipal, provincial and federal of publication, will only succeed tem-

state of affairs in Canada respecting the use of the governmental functions in the interest of the employing

"The consensus of opinion among innumerable indignities as well. those whom we represent appears to be that a considerable number of financial and industrial buccaneers us, and regulate our lives, habits and in this country are bending the government to their will, that force and This in an intolerable condition of harsh repressive measures are constitutional in the estimation of the every workingman and woman to federal government, and that in the name of the Constitution, law and order this government has violated the Constitution of Canada, the British boast of fair play, trial by jury, the right of public asembly, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and has carried out in contravention of Canadian law, kidnappings of labor representatives in the west,

"We urge that the workers refuse to submit to these illegal acts intend-• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the men who make its laws.

> Read the platform of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association, sent on re-

ed to destroy the legality of our efforts to better the condition of 85 per cent. of the population of Can-

"It appears that we shall again have to strive for the elemental rights of all human beings-expression of thought, the right to organize for protection, the right to peaceably assemble. We cannot arrive anywhere nor become free men and women unless we make secure these rights once for all.

### Canadian Majority Rule

"Majority rule has a legal status in this country. We, the workers, are in a vast majority, and we are justified in the condition that our voice should be the sole voice in the management of ourselves and the management of our affairs, of getting a

living out of an earth that should be the joint possession of us all. "We urge and belive that the working class will shortly attend to this matter of vital interest to them doing Men's Work".

The Toronto Metal Trades Coun- and we warn the government here tion, freedom of utterance, freedom porarily, if at all.

"The Metal Trades Council of Toronto", the statement says, "be-pital, not only their own necessities, but supply millions of non-producers call special attention to the existing with both the necessities and comforts of life, while the workers themselves, for the most part, live a live of constant self-denial, insecurity of employment and submit to

> "We acknowledge that those who own our jobs for the most part own conduct from the cradle to the grave. affairs which makes it the duty of take an absorbing interest in the politics of their own kind, to the end that industrial freedom shail come.

#### Right to Economic Freedom

"The Metal Trades Council calls upon the workers everywhere to become consistently active, politically, in a way that will compel the discontinuance of illegal and violent acts by replacing the present government with a working class administration. We are not of the opinion that this can be done in the near future by the workers whose ascendancy to power will make uecessary the writing of a new constitution that will not only recognize the workers' right to economic freedom but also make them joint participants in the ownership of Canadian industries by all the people. Nothing else would be thoroughly fair; nothing else would satisfy; nothing else is possible.
"This change must come if we

are to have industrial peace in place of industrial war, and realize that democracy so often talked and written about, during the great war.

"We extend greetings to all useful citizens, invite all others to become such and suggest immediate preparation for municipal, provincial and federal elections, and urge on the fight'', says the statement, closing with the words: "Labor knows no defeat.'

### THE KISS AND MAKE-UP

Two pretty girls met in the street and kissed each other rapturously. Two young men watched the meet-

"There's another of those things that I hate", said one.

"What is that?" said his friend. He pointed to the scene: "Women

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Statistics show that influenza is much more deadly than war. In a few months it took more victims than fell in over four years of fighting.

That it has awakened the average citizen to a more lively sense of the constant risk of death which he faces, and the results which would ensue for his dependents, is shown by the enormous and growing demand for life assurance protection.

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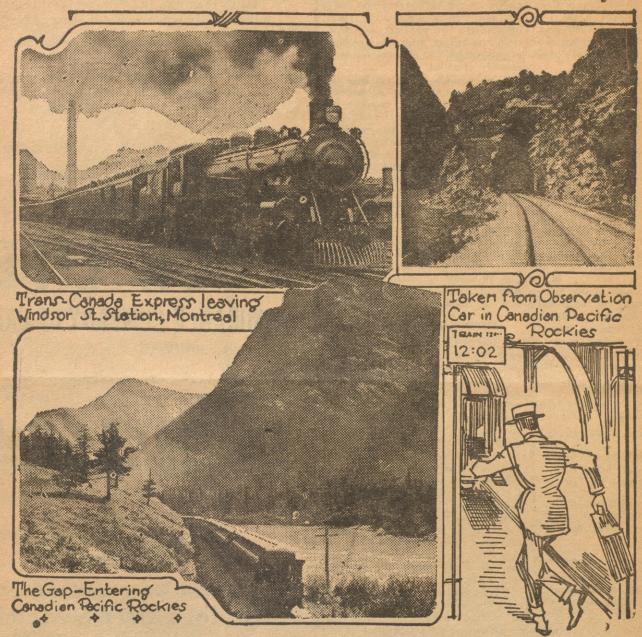
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hurts is to be considered again. He is to be permitted to get from place to place quickly, his freight is to be handled promptly and he is to be given every assistance to revitalize the business of America. The railways are the veins and arteries upon which a healthy business body must depend, therefore normally much of his help must come-from them.

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Now that the era of reconstruction | Canada" — the new transcontinental erally registered from New York, here, the business man, who has express of the C. P. R.—pulled out of the limit, bought bonds the Windsor St. Station in Montreal American cities, a considerable num-

Glasgow, August 15.

BY the end of this year the Glas-D gow Labor Party will have its own University. Although last season 2,000 students attended the various evening and Sunday classes conducted by the Glasgow Labor College, it has been found that the the present system does not meet the needs of the young trade unionists who are demanding the higher education. As most of the young men and women work hard in the daytime to earn their living they have at night neither the energy to master the intricates of Marxian economics, nor the mental repose necessary to absorb the beauties of English literature. If they are to be educated at all they must give their best hours to it. The promoters of the Labor College will be able to provide a whole-time course, free of cost to the students. The working expenses of the College will be met mainly by subscription and grants, and the personal expenses of the students by the co-operative or tradeunion organisations which send them. The curriculum of the College is comprehensive. The subjects to be taught are: - Economics, general and industrial history; history, structure, and problems of trade unionism and co-operation; laws affecting labor; political science; arithmetic, algebra and statistics; English literature, composition and public speaking; business methods applied to trade unions and labor organisations, ineluding bookkeping and typewriter; and Esperanto. It will be seen that languages and technical instruction are omitted, but if the present ven-



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ture is successful it is probable that all the subjects now taught at the University will be dealt with by the Labor College In this direction the possibilities are very great. The aims of the College are certainly very

#### Organised Forestry.

Scotland is very much interested in the Forestry Bill which is now ready to go on the Statute Book. We may now look forward to the institution of a considerd afforestation poliey for these isles. The Bill has not been greatly altered during its passage through the two Houses. Two amendments of importance, how-ever, were made. It was agreed, in the first place, that the number of Forestry Comissioners should be increased from seven to eight, by the addition of a member of the House of Commons, who will be the Perliamenary spoksman of the authorities. The second and more important addition provides for a working agreement between the Forestry authorities and the Board of Agriculture. The danger of overlapping now appears to be eliminated, and the small-holding enthusiasts have received the guarantee they demanded. The Government is now empowered to proceed with one of the most vital schemes of reconstruc-

#### Scottish Coal Crists

be the latest storm centre in the mining industry. The Lothian miners are committed to a strike out of sympathy with 300 miners at Polton Colliery, who have been idle since the end of May. This stoppage will involve 11,000 workers. It is also tive of the National Union of Railreported from Hamilton that a serious situation has developed in the Coalburn district of Lanarkshire, wher about 2 000 miners have been idle since July 17. The trouble appears to have orignated in a difference of opinion regarding the method of applying the snorter working day. The whole question has been referred to the Lanarkshire Disputes Committee.

### Dunoon Workers' Demands.

The Finance Committee of Dunoon Town Council have handed to the various committees for consideration a request by the Municipal Employees Association on behalf of the local men of all departments for an advance of 30/- per week over prewar wages as a minimum wage, and a working week of 48 hours.

### Civic Freedom for Soldiers.

Once more the question of granthave fought overseas has been under nute of agreement annexed to the Glasgow. Bailie Turner, a well expired within the next few months, known Labor member, who has been and unless within that period the keen in his advocacy, was responsi-ble for the re-introduction of the agreed to acquire the whole of the 290 Mountain Street, subject. In the opinion of the Ma- tramway undertaking, the Bellshill AMBULANCE HEADQUARTERS

In the circumstances it was agreed transferred to the company. Sir Thoto delay consideration for a fort. possible, the approximate number of state what they were prepared to acthe men likely to be involved, the cept for their undertakings. The recost that would accrue to the Corporation for the certificates, and burghs involved are Hamilton, Mothascertain whether the Inland Rev- erwell, and Wishaw. enue authorities are prepared to forego the 5/- stamp tax which is usually demanded. There is a genferring of this honor on Glasgow's soldier sons would be a graceful act the ultimate decision will be awaited with the keenest interest. Several Scottish communities, it may be added, have honored their returned soldiers by raising them to the dignity of freemen.

#### Holiday Wages.

The linoleum manufacturers of Kirckcaldy have intimated to their employees that for the periol of the holiday week they will receive a full week's remuneration, and that indefinitely they will be paid for Spring, Autumn, and New Year holidays at a flat rate of 4/- per day for male and female workers over 18 years of age, and 2/6 per day for those under. The conditions attaching to the receipt of gratuity are ploymnt of the firm for six months prior to the first day of hte holiday in each year, and that they conforn to the arrangements of the employ-Ther are signs that Scotland is to ers with regard to days of starting and resuming work. Nearly half of the working population of Kirkcaldy are affected by the scheme.

waymen is considering proposals Our models for the which will produce important changes in the activities of its officials. It is probable that one change will have the effect of relieving Mr. J. H. Thomas of many of his secretarial pleted and displayed duties, so as to lift from him some in our show rooms of the burdens, and have leave him free for more active political life at Westminster. Mr. Thomas has been giving of his best in the cause of the railway workers and is now suffering in health for it.

### Lanarkshire Tramways.

The acquisition of the tramways in Lanarkshire by the County County and burghal authorities within the area is a question which has arisen for immediate settlement. Sir Thomas Munro, the County Clerk, explained to a recent joint meeting of the county and burgh representatives that the period during which the option of purchase conferred ing burgess tickets to soldiers who upon the County Council by the miconsideration by the Magistrates of Lanark County Tramway Act, 1912,

gistrates, however, the information lines, which wer constructed at the at their disposal meantime is not cost of the County Council, and sufficiently detailed to permit of an were presently run by the Tramway immediate decision being reachel. Company on lease, would fall to be mas communicated with the Tramnight to enable the Clerk to find, if way Company, and asked them to ply has not yet been received. The

### Making Scotland Safe.

Speaking at a meeting under the eral feeling in the city that the con- auspices of the Scottish Home Rule Association in Helensburgh, Mr. D. M. M'Kay said that no four nations, on the part of the Corporation, and however big, could make the world safe for democracy. So far as Scotland was concerned the only ones who could make it safe were the people themselves, and he appealed to them to work and vote for the re-establishment of a Scottish Parliament.

James Gibson.

By Appointment FURRIERS



To H. M. King George V.

It is well to keep in mind that a sharp advance in Fur prices that workers have been in the em- is anticipated in the early Autumn.

> This fact is recognized by far-sighted women, who are now buying Furs for wear next Winter.

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The Official Organ of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

> Organized, Sept., 1916. Incorporated under Dominion Letters Patent, April, 1919.

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THE CANADIAN RAILROADER LIMITED 60. DANDURAND BUILDING, MONTREAL

GEO. PIERCE, Editor.

KENNEDY CRONE, Associate Editor.

## Army of Cahor Marched

men behind the guns but also including in its ranks many the masses who hadn't any passports. former fighters of the Great War, quietly marched through Montreal last Monday

of church bells or screeching of sirens, no glittering receptions or fine, rumbling speeches.

But the procession was more than six miles long, the longest by far that the city had ever seen.

It comprised between twenty and thirty thousand men and women, the greatest number of persons who ever marched together on Montreal streets.

It was viewed throughout its entire length by closely-packed humanity, there being probably more spectators than for any street spectacle in the city's history, not excluding the visit of the Prince of Wales.

He who had never before been impressed by organized labor -its volume, its greatness and its potential strength-and who saw the Labor Day parade, must have been at last impressed if his brains were at all subject to impression.

Thousands of the older men amongst the marchers bore on their faces and in their carriage the story of the long and honest struggle for mere existence, of the hard work for long hours at wages which continuously kept them in the shadows of worry and dread. Theirs not for a quiet and comfortable old age, theirs but to work and struggle in the hurly-burly till they died. Their appearance was a mockery at a Christian commonwealth. Sad enough was their lot as union men. Heaven help them if they had had no union!

A feature of the parade was Montreal's contributions to the new forms of alliance with organized labor. Policemen, firemen and other civic employees marched in the ranks for the first time. Montreal, too, supplied the first and only illustration in Canada of unionized journalists marching amongst the union men of other departments of the printing and publishing industry, a symbol of the camaraderie between hand and brain workers which is already a notable phase of organized labor in Great Britain and is fast assuming substantial shape on the American Continent.

K. C.

## A Church Comedian

E wonder what results are achieved by that burlesque comedian of the church, the Rev. Billy Sunday, who has been speaking to an audience of 20,000 people in Toronto.

If he succeeded with his fine line of vitriolitic slang and his stage antics, in bringing those 20,000 Toronto people to think more kindly of their neighbors and to do a little more good in the world, we would hope that he might be long spared to carry on his performances, and would even suggest that he add a string of chorus girls to his show and thus intensify the interest in Christianity.

However, we have serious doubts as to the value of the accomplishmnt of the Rev. William Sunday. Our estimate is that most of the 20,000 Torontians went to hear him out of curiosity or in the same mood that would take them a cabaret entertainment, and that a fair proportion of the balance went because they were sure they already had passports for Heaven HE army of labor, largely composed of the men behind the and wanted to hear a proper denunciation and terrorization of

The curiosity seekers had their curiosity satisfied. folks who wanted to be entertained probably thought that the There were no lavish displays of flags and bunting, no ringing show was worth the admission price. The people with the passports to Heaven had their fill of onslaught on the people who, to their minds, were still without passports. But nothing in all this is worth a row of pins to Christianity as expounded by its first great preacher. Indeed, it is a set-back to Christianity, for it is an official stand for something for which it is obviously unable to speak or demonstrate in a Christian way. The ill turns that have been done to Christianity in this and other forms, in the name of Christianity, are the very things largely responsible for the lapsed masses of thinking people.

> Can the Rev. William Sunday tell us with any degree of accuracy how many people in his Toronto audience or his former audiences were strengthened in their good works or caused to turn from evil or their careless works, by what he said and did? That is the test, and the only test. The size of the crowd is meaningless and the sudden religious hysteria of a few people is just as meaningless.

> > K. C.

### NEWSPAPER WRITERS' UNION nearby cities organized at a mass

of newspapers in San Francisco and a charter.

FORMED IN SAN FRANCISCO meeting on Aug. 24, the Newspaper Writers' Union of the San Francis-One hundred and eighteen men and co Bay counties.. Application was women employed on editorial staffs ternational Typographical Union for

## FOOD CONTROL IN UNITED KINGDOM

Town Hall, England, recently, expressed its grave concern at the present high prices of food and threatened still further increase in the cost of living during the coming autumn the opportunity of making quick and and winter; it called upon the govwith a view to curtailing the operation of trusts and combines, and to protect the consumer against all ing the views of the food controller forms of profiteering.

Mr. C. A. McCurdy, the parliamentary secretary to the Food Ministry, said the question of retaining and in such widely differing things. The some cases of reimposing control upon foodstufs, in view of the possible rise of price during the coming winter, was now receiving the close attention of the government.

Dealing with the question of control he was not thinking so much of rationing, he said—the necessity for which he hoped had now disappeared -but of the maintenance of national or possibly interallied purchase of some essential foodstuffs with a view to stabilizing prices and cutting out the speculative middleman, who, in any period of shortage, found his harvest at the expense of the con-

moval of control was largely due to trade, who saw in a rising market, itself. easy profits. This kind of profiteerernment to take drastic measures: ing at the expense of the public ought to be drastically dealt with, and in saying that he was expressas well as his own.

restrictions of the Liquor Control Board, the restrictions of D. O. R. A. and measures designed solely to prevent profiteering, such as fixing maximum prices, were all loosely described by the word "control." They ought to recognize that while some forms of control imposed for war purposes were simply irritating
—a necessary evil of war—other forms of control might be a permanent benefit to the country. In sweeping away the controls created for the purpose of war, they did not desire to go back to the period when, as in the eighteenth century, trade and industry had been really free There was no doubt that in oils from control of every kind; when "this is the last".

child labor, sweated industries, un- COURT DEFINES LABOR sanitary factories had been incidents of trade freedom as then understood. In his opinion the protection of the public against profiteering, not merely in foodstuffs, but in all essential commodities of life, was just A conference of local food control, and fats the alarming rise which had as desirable a form of control to be A conference of local rood control and fats the alarming rise which had as desirable a form of control to be tention of the manufacturers and committees, held at the Leyton Town taken place in prices since the repermanently retained, as the control others in Greensboro to a recent exercised by the Factory Acts, by decision of the United States Court the interference of speculators having no legitimate interest in the dustry has long learnt to accustom that Labor unions are responsible

> The rapid multiplication of trusts and trade combinations, having for thei robject the maintenance or raising of prices to the consumer, had proceeded at alarming rates during the last few years of war, and they did not yet know what the effect It was unfortunate that the word of this transformation of industry "control" was used to describe which had been silently proceeding, of this transformation of industry would be. No one could view without alarm the growing power of the American Meat Trust to control in their own interest the food prices of

### -22---THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST

An elderly man, driving an auto, suddenly fetched up in a drug store window.

"It is the first time you ever drove a car?" asked a police offi-

"No, sir", was the grim reply,

### UNION RESPONSIBILITY

(Christian Science Monitor.)

Greensboro, North Carolina. -David Clark, editor of the Southern Textile Bulletin, is calling the atfor treble damage for injury to or destruction of property by its members. A circular mailed out by Mr. Clark says:

"The most important decision affecting the responsibility of Labor unions and the first instance in the United States where a Labor union has been held liable for an act of its members is that recently rendered by the United States Court of Appeals in imposing against the United Mine Workers of America damage to the amount of \$625,000 for violation of the Sherman anti-trust act.

"Three essential principles are established by the decision: First, that a Labor union is responsible under the Sherman anti-trust law for treble damage for injury to or destruction of property by its members; second, that the organization is responsible as a principal for the act of its district and local branches, their officers and members; third, that the organization is responsible when it takes no steps to control or discipline its officers and members for acts of violence"

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TORONTO, - - Ont.

## OMAN'S FORU BLIND TO EVERYTHING - BUT THE TRUTH

## What Workingmen's Wives Are Thinking

of working women the other evening laying the present unrest and a more interesting meeting it would be hard to find. The conversation fairly bristled with life, wit ness and intelligence of "higher-and common sense, each one had ups." They discussed the questions their say and their say was worth of bread, boots, blankets, rents, child listening to. They didn't all talk at the same time. Neither did they discuss the coming and prevailing fashions, their afternoon or dinner frocks, the engagement of Miss Soand-so nor the latest love affair of Mrs. Dolittle. The Three A's Dress-Disease and Domestics, the prevailing topics of conversation of the leisured woman did not absorb the time and thought of these women only in so far as they related to vital issues of life they had met to dis-

It was a cosmopolitan meeting, typical of the working class. There were soldiers' wives, mechanics' wives, widows', deserted wives, clerks' wives, a few saleswomen and typists, the larger number however belonging to and dependent on the great mass unorganized labor boiling over with discontent, weary with high financing and dreading the approach of the long cold winter as never before, for unlike other years in spite of our nation's boasted prosperity, these women, with few exceptions, confesed to the fact of having to face empty coal bins and not a dollar laid by either for coal, extra clothing or the price of the doctor and medicine, always sure to be needed where there are children, ere the winter is gone. Truly a black out-

I was asked to attend a gathering outlook and not one conducive to al-

These women, mostly mothers of families, discussed with an earnest-They discussed the questions labor, half-timers, eight-hour day, night work, cold lunches, infant mortality, rickets and prostitution in a way that would have done credit to a sociologist.

They didn't need to be told that there was something wrong with society, they knew it better than those paid to study them, in fact they are society and they are the problem the solution of which cannot be handed to them after the manner Sunday dinner, it's about the best I of the cup of tea and the bun at the mothers' meeting.

One of the more determined of the group,a deserted wife, the mother of four young children, brought her fist down on the table with emphasis as she recited her struggle to feed and clothe her children on the \$35 per month which she received from a wealthy corporation for cleaning offices. She was anxious to see a union of char-women formed to "demand their rights as useful necessary citizens." As she summed up her struggles and told of her sufferings and roundly denounced a system that "exacted so much from her and gave her so little in return', her spirit grew rebellious and once more she was about to hit the table to impress her point on those present, when a little worn thin sorrowful woman beside her interrupted her saying "there are others here as bad as you and some worse; you're lucky to have your children to work for". Here her voice broke and she could say no more for a minute, silence reigned, all eyes were turned in her direction and if lovthoughts could heal wounds, there would be no scars left on her aching heart. This woman had brought into the world ten children. Eight died before their fifth year, two of them she raised to the age of fifteen and seventeen years, when in her own words "they took the wasting disease and died. She was sure that if she could have given them the nourishing food they needed, and allowed them the rest and sunshine necessary to health, she would not be lonely for them

Her man had been ailing for some time subject to "weak spells" and she had to do her bit to keep the wolf from the door, and it was no

price.

Another mother was puzzled to worked so hard had so little. She was at her wits end to find the money to buy boots and books to send the poor children back to school — in fact she declared she couldn't do it, the first time since her man had the typhoid fever 8 years ago that she was so "strapped." "We can no longer feeq, clothe and send our kids to school, did we send our men to the war to make the work harder for mothers and children?" asked another woman with an emaciated child beside

"Before he went, we had butter, eggs, bacon and other kinds of food once or twice a day at least, but now with himself working all he's able, and me going out two or three times a week if I can give them a good can do. I have five more of them able to work, and no matter which way I pull, the profiteers beat me. While our men folks were bleeding for their country, thes efellows stay ed home and bled their country. Why

easy job with everything such a are they not jailed or hanged. Then these terrible strikes that just give the man evcuse to raise the price on know why it was that those who us again, would son stop. I am opposed to strikes, and so is Jim, they throw him out of work against his will, and he doesn't like to be a strike-beaker either, but neither can he let us starve."

This little gathering of women is typical of what's happening in almost every working man's home today. Discontent is growing not subsiding, we are facing the long cold winter. What is the answer to be to women such as these?

Rose Henderson.

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after time before sufficient strength could be mustered in the legislature DUCERS for enactment.

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Mark Fisher Building

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## Canadian



"ROYAL

Montreal

Unions contains a warning by the management committee:

"November, 1919, to May, 1920, will be fateful months", says the report. "Unless sanity returns and Preport. "Unless sanity returns approduction increases, they will be tragic months". The report conti-

Thi "Strikes have been precipitated a Go which might have been avoided, and union funds have been needlessly Purit dissipated. Some strikes had a distinctly political origin. Political W. CI strikes must either fail or end in revolution. They are not against the Canada capitalists, but against the commun-effers, but the people. Against such strikes the Government must pro-By Special Appointmen tect the people or surrender its functions. The effect of such strikes THE OGILVIE FLO is to decrease production and in-

"In view of the national situa-LIN tion and the possibility of a grave Millers of two indispens shortage, it is imperative that the favorites thr trades unions face the facts. The outstanding ones are that the war is over, that the competition laws HOUSEHOLD", as between nations are now force-Flfully operating; that food and raw MII materials required for the subsist-ence of Great Britain must be bought from countries over whose The Largest Millers merchants our Government has no Canada Food Board Liecuse control, and that commodities must be paid for with goods, not paper".

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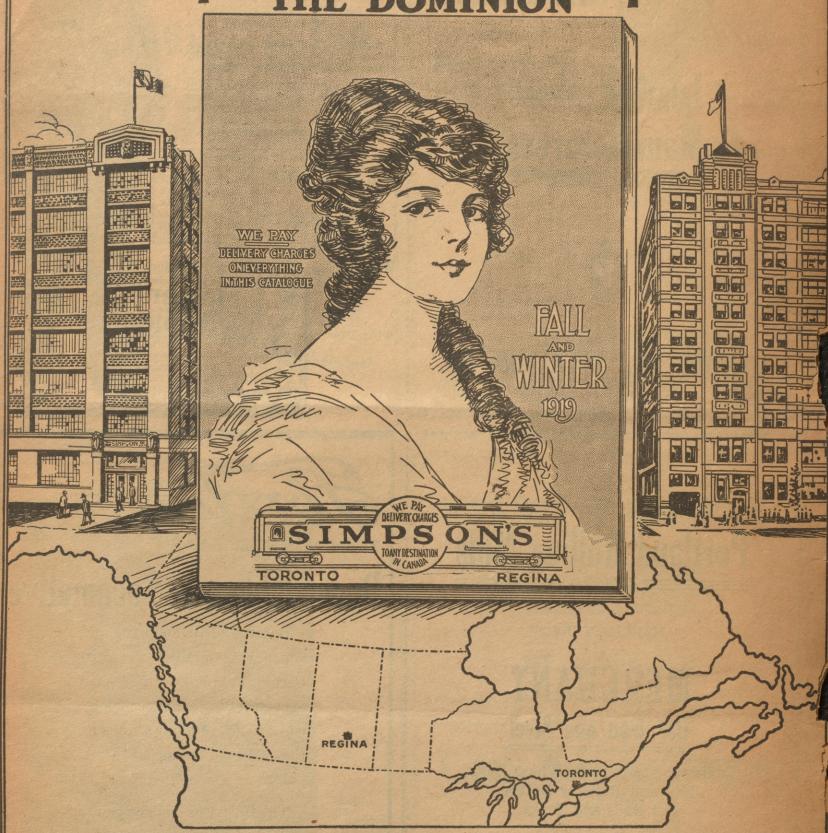
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